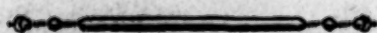


THE FOURTH EDITION,
WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.



A

L E T T E R

TO THE

MOST INSOLENT MAN ALIVE.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.



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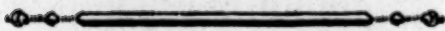
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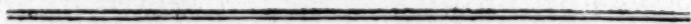


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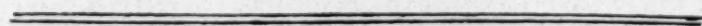
L E T T E R

TO THE

MOST INSOLENT MAN ALIVE.



Redeunt Saturnia Regna.



London:

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M,DCC,LXXXIX.



TO

The most insolent Man alive.

S I R,

AMONG the crowd of sympathizing friends, who affect to lament your downfall, but who have by their advice and influence so effectually contributed to it, will you permit a stranger to approach, and speak a language which few great men wish to hear, and none of their followers dare to utter?

It is not, Sir, the whining cant of impotent condolence,—it is not the selfish sigh, which bursts from the bosom without affecting the heart,—it is not the anticipating groan for a place about to be resigned, or

B

a fine-

a sinecure snatched from the hand which had already grasped it; — it is — start not! — it is the Voice of TRUTH, which, however you may pretend to despise it, will vibrate through the shades of retirement, and from whose penetrating shafts you will fly to Holwood in vain.

It has been said, that every effect should be equal to the object which it means to attain; if the importance of *your* views is to be judged of by this axiom, how *exalted* must they be! how *highly* are they to be rated! with *such* sacrifices as you have made, so zealous an *high-priest* as you are,—the deity you worship must be powerful, and the gifts he bestows invaluable.

Yet, if after the prophetic visions of your oracle, and the gilded scenes of a warm imagination, you should find, too late, that you have been deceived; if the splendid fabric of the dæmon vanishes into smoke,
what

what must be your feelings and situation, when, though dismissal is protracted by the feeble gleams of court sunshine, your fame as a minister, and your reputation as a statesman, have received an incurable wound !

Without a hand to heal, or a heart to sympathize with your sorrows, the balm of an address will be poured forth in vain; the *generous* Jenkinson considers your cause as sinking, Dundas affects to be *modest*, and Sydney *attempts* to speak.

The uxorious Marquis will fly to his nuptial bower, and seek in the arms of beauty for those pleasures which ambition and power can no longer bestow, and which *once* even Hymen denied.

I will not offend by describing the manner in which, notwithstanding the present pride of your deportment, you *crept* into power ; nor will I confuse the placid serenity of your cousin, the good Marquis of Buckingham, by recounting the speedy rewards that followed his well-

timed

timed private services ; I will not interrupt the *general popularity* of his Irish administration.—These, with “ the invasion of chartered rights,” that political talisman, by which in so masterly a manner you deluded a whole nation, have had their day.

“ Il y a un germe de raison qui commence a se developer.”

The eyes of the people are opened, the mists are gradually dispersed by the radiance of the RISING SUN, and those who were duped by, and those who assisted in your *artifices*, can no longer be managed.

The curtain was drawn up, and discovered you, the REFORMER OF PARLIAMENTARY CORRUPTION—that fatal measure for which you had pledged yourself, when the down had scarcely covered your cheek.

This trap for the approbation of others, in which you were caught yourself, was devised at an ill-starred moment, when your cold systematic prudence had *for once* been laid aside.

The

The faint applause, the adulterate adoption of spurious praise, the zeal which damns, and the lukewarm support which defeats its purpose, were avowedly yours:

At so early a period did you commence the farce of *grimace and insult*, for a people against whom you meditated the *deepest injury*!

The honourable band of merchants in Leadenhall-street, who have been in the habit of dethroning princes, and setting empires up to sale; who execrated, in the moment of popular frenzy, Mr. Fox, as a bold invader, begin to discover in indignant whispers, that what they would not yield to the undisguised language of state necessity, has been pilfered from them by mean finesse and low stratagem.

Happy had it been for this country, could your ambition have been satisfied to tread in the humble track of petty crimes; we should not then have

been enabled to trace your daring spirit, mounting by gradual succession, from court intrigue, borough jobbing, and a conspiracy with tea brokers, to infringe the constitution of your country, and insult the Heir Apparent of your Sovereign.

I would make every allowance for an amiable Queen, distracted with affliction and sorrow for the calamity of the best of husbands; and for her bestowing a *proper* attention on the *younger* branches of her family; but surely some decorum was due to a young Prince, on whom the future hopes of the nation rest, whose mind was harrowed by filial distress, and whose conduct on this occasion even you and his bitterest enemies cannot but approve.

Was it right, was it decent, for a CONFIDENTIAL SERVANT of the Crown to address the Prince of Wales to the following purport?

“ SIR,

" SIR,

" After three months government without
 " a King, and introducing a practitioner, with a me-
 " mory as obsequious as his conduct was rash
 " and unwarrantable.*—It is at last discovered that
 " your father is not qualified to perform the du-
 " ties of the regal office; but do not imagine that you
 " are on this account the less in my power.—I have
 " taken care very early to inculcate my favourite
 " maxim, that as Regent, any other individual in the
 " kingdom was equally eligible with yourself. Will
 " you accept the Regency as the creature of me and
 " my party? Will *you* be the puppet, while *I* and my
 " adherents conduct the master wires?

* What does a man deserve who puts an instrument of death into the hands of a patient with deranged intellects; and then shudders with repentance which might have been ineffectual, and a concern which induces him to defend it? The event by no means justifies the measure.

" I have

“ I have been a tool, but am now resolved to
 “ be a *Tyrant*. If you refuse, I have a sharp and
 “ powerful weapon in my hands : I have erected a
 “ fortress in the very seat of power, a citadel which
 “ commands every avenue of your capital ; it is com-
 “ pletely stored with men, money, and provisions.

“ From the moment of my dismissal, I will intrench
 “ myself and adherents ; and as the wheels of state at
 “ all times, in a limited monarchy, revolve with dif-
 “ ficulty, I am resolved (notwithstanding my plau-
 “ sible assurances) I am firmly resolved to clog and
 “ embarrass them by every means in my power. Un-
 “ der the specious banners of tenderness and respect
 “ for my sovereign and his comfort, I will set up a
 “ fourth power, however incompatible it may be with
 “ the English constitution.

“ Nor am I without the most sanguine hopes, that

“ from

“ from the disagreeable conditions annexed to the
“ Regency, you will be induced to refuse it.

“ Conscious that *you* possess honour and manly spi-
“ rit, one spark of which never inspired *my* breast,
“ dishonourable hints and suspicions, which one *gentle-*
“ *man* would not tolerate from another, shall not be
“ wanting.

“ By these and other *laudable* means, I perhaps
“ may be able to confirm myself perpetual dictator,
“ and insure to myself and advisers the power and
“ emoluments of government.”

After such an address, clothed perhaps in treache-
rous and smooth words, to the only person whom our
melancholy situation pointed out as your master, let us
pause.——Will you deny that your cheek turned
pale at being told that the Prince *would* accept the

D

Regency,

Regency, notwithstanding your insidious Restrictions?
—you started like a guilty thing, bit your lip with anguish, and confessed you were undone!

When your new-modelled system is put into execution, when the harmless * Regent is bound by constitutional fetters, which were *you* to be his minister never would have been heard of; what defence have we against YOU, THE MOST PLAUSIBLE, FAIR SPOKEN, BUT MOST DANGEROUS YOUNG MAN THIS KINGDOM EVER BEHELD?

Will it be any protection against the active malignity of your mischievous intriguing spirit, to be told that you have secured the lords of the bedchamber, that a gentleman usher is in no danger of losing his place, and that a clerk of the kitchen shall not be dismissed?

* Harmless, because the Constitution, the two Houses of Parliament, and the laws already tie up his hands.

Need

Need you be told, with all your merits as a Financier and an economist, a reputation which by the most specious arts you stole but never deserved, need you be told, at what an expence you have secured a retreat for your party, and an opposition to the Regent?

But in this, as in every other instance of your life, you have the address to disguise a hateful ministerial measure under an alluring popular mask.

It would have been too shocking a sight for the good men of the City to see *you*, the paragon of moral rectitude, the phoenix of expiring chastity, creating court patronage, and confessing yourself the humble minion of a petticoat government.

You, who stand forth to stem the torrent of corruption, and to restore the exhausted finances of a kingdom, *your breast* could not harbour such an unhallowed purpose!

The

The dignity of the King's person is to be preserved at *every* expence; the feelings of the nation are to be worked up to a sufficient pitch by a pathetic tale; iron tears run down the brazen face of Pluto; and we are betrayed to consent to a violation of the constitution!

So successful have your experiments been in imposing on the people of this country, that your fruitful mind is ever teeming with new projects of deceit, and as you have played your part so often without detection, you still persevere in mystery and delay without fear.

Gild but your poisonous pill with a thin outside of personal attachment, economy, or commercial advantage, and the undiscerning crowd swallow with avidity the nostrums, and the polished periods of the quack.

In politics, as in quackery, tumid promises, and irrational

tional credulity resist and triumph over the evidence of the most stubborn facts.

Surrounded with disease and death, the deluded patient will scarcely bear to be told, that the remedy is as injurious as it is deceiving, that it aggravates the very complaint it professes to cure, and that the mountebank is a contemptible pretender.

Your countrymen, Sir, find with sorrow and surprise, that you substitute declamation for argument; that in opposition to plain facts which stare you in the face, you obtrude a numerical display of figures and false calculations; and instead of adopting a fair, open line of conduct, evade detection in the intricacies of a custom-house entry, pursue a dark and crooked path, and, secure in your *virtuous* majority, are mysterious, waspish, and insolent.

But the time is near at hand, when your character will be generally understood, and a plain man may

E

venture

venture to assert, that an immense unappropriated fund is no proof of skill in finance ; that increasing burthens to diminish them, is a paradox in politics, and that the deranged and disordered state of France cannot possibly reflect any credit on you as a negociator or a statesman.

Yet with these barren materials have your professed panegyrists, who in their attempts to defend, so effectually damn your fame ; with these crumbling materials have they essayed to build you a reputation, which a little time, a little experience, and a little common sense, levels to the ground.

The withered state of your fame holds forth an useful lesson to future ministers ; it will teach them to shun those meretricious arts which you have so ineffectually practised, to procure the name without the essence of patriotism.

Few men ever possessed in a greater degree than yourself the attracting glitter of tinsel, the gewgaw glare of foil, so attractive to women and children, but none were ever less qualified to pass through the trying furnace of the refiner; every criterion of sterling metal was wanting to stamp it into real value; the counterfeit is quickly discovered, "his Majesty's" countenance no longer shines upon it," and it instantly ceases to be current.

You were seated at the helm in the prime of life, with strong hope, youthful ardour, family pride, and an indulgent King at your disposal.

With fair probability you might have looked forward to a long administration, and in a few years might have filled every department of church and state (if any such remained unfilled) with relations and family dependants.

You

You might have projected, in riper years and maturer judgment, future Irish Propositions, without submitting to the disagreeable necessity of turning them inside out.

The spirit of that people, whom you disgrace with misers, drunkards, or idiots, in time might have been subdued.

A substitute for the Shop Tax might have been devised, when you had sufficiently gratified your spleen and ill-will against a particular description of men.

Without drawing on yourself the accusation of malice and obstinacy, you might in some other more ingenious way have gratified your revenge, under the cover of increasing the Revenue; in time, perhaps, your pertinacious adherence to this hated and partial oppression might have been forgot.

Perhaps a second Commutation Bill (be not uneasy,
for

for I will not dwell long on the subject) a second Commutation Bill would have presented itself, and have enabled you to deceive the public by a visionary prospect of advantages it never produced.

For the sake of putting two or three millions into the pockets of a monopolizing company, who I confess have not been ungrateful to you, you were guilty of an unwarrantable deception, and transferred a valuable portion of commercial profit to foreign markets.

I will not deny that you told us, this your favourite master-stroke of policy would extirpate smuggling, and give us in tea (your favourite beverage) what you robbed us of for light; unfortunately the contraband trade revives with more than its usual vigour, and the sales at the India House feelingly tell us how cheap we are to expect our teas.

Had it been your happy lot to have remained longer

F

in

in office, what advantageous prospects were in view! you might have matured the insignificance of your brother into some apology for abilities: a Cornish Borough might have secured his *tutor* at the Admiralty from the repetition of so disgraceful a repulse at Westminster; the furlly brow of the Chancellor might have been smoothed; the extravagant chimeras of the gunpowder genius restrained by a little common sense, and Camden sooner or later, after your repeated entreaties, might have been prevailed on to hold his tongue.

With such desirable events in view, how cruel is your disappointment! your wild ambition and unconstitutional measures, have deprived you of the favour of the people; and the instant *that* is discovered, the hollow smile of Buckingham House, which once deluded a YORK, will be changed to the frown of contempt for *you*.

Though

Though Loyalty and Prudence, that flimsy texture in which you wrapped up your purposes, have enabled you in some degree to succeed, I trust your future arts will be defeated by the watchful guardians of the constitution, and the perfect knowledge you have afforded us of your *character*.

Though the path of greatness and glory is barred against you as a minister and statesman for ever, nature, and indeed your education, have eminently qualified you for the bar ; in the House, you are too well known to be able any longer to impose on the country gentlemen, your boasted majorities dwindle apace.

The Court of King's Bench, where your friend presides, opens its friendly doors ; with your tie-wig, your bag, and the fourth part of an hackney-coach, you may sink with safety into a respectable barrister.

Those arts which you have so unhappily exerted
against

against your Prince and your country, will be valued by solicitors and attornies.—With pompous diction, studied phraseology, and hackney'd forms of words, you may sooth the slumbers of a puisne judge, and mislead a petty jury ; you may command the attention of Lord Kenyon, and probably excite his gratitude. The Master of the Rolls will not turn up his *nose* at you, if the Chancellor, who complains of such an *incumbrance*, condescends to leave him any thing to do.

With all your powers of face, could you dare to assert that splendour and external dignity were proper, consistent, or even compatible with the horrors of coercion, the darkened room, the bold E-----, and his desperate crew ?

In pity, Sir, to human nature, in pity to the prostrate majesty of kings, why did you tear aside with a rude hand the wholesome veil which covered the misfortunes of
our

our Sovereign, and endeavour by mock-solemnity and a superfluous display of wretched pageantry, to throw a ridicule on national distress?

I said you were a dangerous young man ; to which I will add, that you are a most daring and haughty one.

It is not your private life, correct beyond the example of modern times, it is not that forbidding unsocial virtue, for which you are indebted to the coldness of your constitution, that I have any right or inclination to censure.

The traits in your character, which excite the apprehensions of all unprejudiced men, are the specious buckram of sentiment, the sententious gravity, the sanctified grimace, and plausible exterior of self-importance ; obstinacy, which no reasoning or expediency can convince ; and a boundless ambition, which no private man can possess without danger to the community.

G

Against

Against a combination of such dangerous qualities I would wish my countrymen to be guarded ; a man of your description is so well qualified, as a minister, to ruin his country, under pretence of preserving it ; and in opposition, so much in the habit of retarding the measures of government, by tampering with bed-chamber women, and cultivating back-stairs influence, that you cannot be provided against too cautiously.

With all the apparent purity of your principles and declarations, with all your affected scruples, you are not ashamed to practise the corrupt arts of the most profligate minister, and to dabble in the most despicable manœuvres.

If the barrenness of your brother's bed, or royal favour, so fruitful in creating peers, should doom you to slumber away your old age in the House of Lords,

" In vulgum ambiguas spargere voces,"

shall

shall be your motto ; while a starched puritan with a hand in each pocket, and a double-faced Janus, looking like Mr. Wilkes two ways at once, shall be your characteristic supporters.

With what decency, with what propriety could you be so insolent as to introduce the mention of the King's private property, when you knew at the same time (yes, and your confidential Secretary well knew), that the Prince could not, without your good-natured officiousness, have the least controul over it ?

It was a cruel piece of policy ; but like every other action of your life, carried a seducing fair-faced reason on the surface of it, which, at the same time it played your old game of catching popular applause, wounded the feelings of a Prince, out of whose power you had put it ever to employ you, by this outrage on his character as a gentleman or a man.

It

It was one of those convenient legal inuendos, which I presume you learnt at the Temple, by which a skilful cross-examining counsel might irreparably injure a man's good name, without saying one word against it.

The uncorrupt, the virtuous young man, wishes for nothing more than to guard this *ample* provision for the Royal Offspring, he (heaven protect him!) had no purpose to answer by circulating this vile aspersions, he could have no views in sowing the seeds of suspicion and distrust in the public mind.

What but the most amiable motives could influence his conduct, by inculcating the necessity of *preventing* the Prince from *robbing* his father?

But, Sir, I trust a generous nation will be as ready to give credit to a young Prince, the lawful successor of his father, as to a Minister, who sacrifices every thing

to

to a selfish love of office, whose administration commenced in fraud, continued in delusion, and ends in endeavours to mould the sacred forms of our constitution into a democratic aristocracy, or a consular republic.

It is the fashion for you and your friends to lament in strains of pity, "that worst of insolence," the licentious conduct of the Prince.

Every one, with the *feelings* and *passions* of a man, must allow for his age and situation. Fettered in the disgusting forms of royalty, he cannot gratify his wishes in the nuptial path: But nature, (perhaps I speak unintelligible to you) all powerful nature will vindicate her rights.

He loves a fine woman, enjoys the amusements of the turf, and spends his income as becomes a Prince, in encouraging the arts, in splendour, elegance, and taste.

H

The

The science of *accumulation* he may learn and practise at some remote period; and however his expences may exceed his income, *he has very fair precedents for messages to the Commons for more money.*

You are said occasionally to amuse your leisure hours with a novel; perhaps, while you have been sipping your tea, Fielding's *Tom Jones* has occasionally occupied your attention.

Is it possible that you can have caught some congenial traits in the character of *Blifil*, and that you think them worthy of imitation?

While *Jones* was indulging the generous propensities of youthful ardour, and experiencing the amiable weakness of human nature, his good, chaste, moral, sober friend *Blifil* was ruining him with his benefactor *Allworthy*, and conspiring against his fame, his fortune, and his life.

But

But it is time to take my leave, which I shall do with a short question.

You say you will not oppose the Regent, *but when you think he does wrong* :—Shall you ever think an administration which you do not direct can do right?

After this declaration, which has left such ample room for subterfuge, can we be surprized to see you conducting a regular preconcerted plan of opposition?

The kind condoler, the cabinet counsellor of a father and a mother, will reconcile his duty to his interest, and harass and perplex the measures of their son.

In this case, you may again expect to hear from

AN ENGLISHMAN.

But it is time to take my leave, which I shall do with

you shall be very wrong. — Shall you ever think an ad-

ministration which you do not think can do right?

After this declaration, which has left such ample

room for discussion, we be surprised to see you

conducting a regular preconceived plan of opposition?

The kind conduct, the cabinet councillor of a fa-

ther and a minister, with reconcile his duty to his inco-

rect, and himself and put the measures of their for-

in this case you may expect to hear from

My friend,

